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MANOR OF PHILIPSBOROUGH

A VIEW OF PHILLIP'S MANOR IN 1784. (NOTE THE SPELLING OF PHILIPSE)
By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

THE MANOR OF PHILIPSBOROUGH

ADDRESS WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK BRANCH

OF

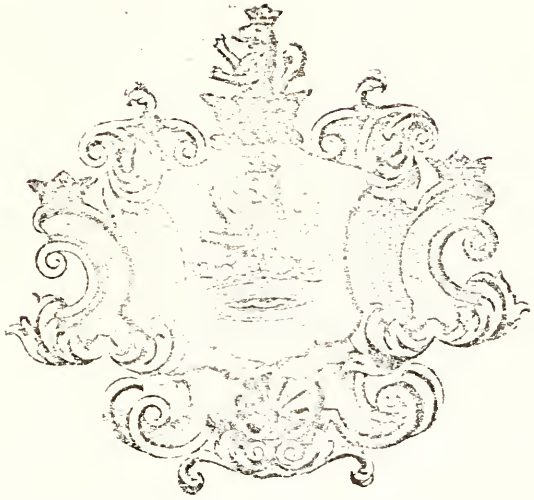
THE ORDER OF COLONIAL LORDS OF MANORS IN AMERICA

BY

EDWARD HAGAMAN HALL, L.H.D.

BALTIMORE
1920

1573218



FREDERIK·PHILIPSE·ESQ^R

THE PHILIPSE ARMS

Arms: Az a demi lion rampant, rising out of a Coronet, arg.
Crest: A demi lion rampant.
Motto: Quod tibi vis fieri facias.

THE PHILIPSE MANOR HOUSE AT YONKERS IN 1919

THE MANOR OF PHILIPSBOROUGH

The Manor of Philipsborough, or Philipse Manor, as it is frequently called, extended along the Hudson river from Spuyten Duyvil creek to Croton river, a distance of about twenty-one miles, and embraced about 156,000 acres. It was neither the first nor the largest of the great Colonial Manors in what is now the State of New York, but derived its distinction from its proximity to the Metropolis, the character of its proprietors, and the history enacted within its borders.

It is not a little singular that this rich domain, so eligibly situated for commerce by reason of its location on the Hudson and so attractive on account of its good farm land and mill-streams, should so long have escaped bestowal upon some influential and worthy citizen of the Colony, after tracts more remote had been granted by the Crown to Thomas Pell, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer and Robert Livingston, not to mention less notable characters. It cannot be denied, however, that when Philipsborough Manor was created by Royal Charter on June 12, 1693, it was worthily bestowed.

Frederick Philipse, the grantee, was born in Bolswaert, Friesland, in 1626—the year in which Peter Minuit, the first Director-General of New Netherland, arrived at Manhattan Island with a fully equipped government and the year from which the City of New York dates its first permanent settlement. He was the grandson of Viscount Philipse of Bohemia who had fled from that country for greater liberty of conscience in Friesland. Frederick Philipse came to New Amsterdam probably in 1647 when he and the embryo Metropolis were both turning the twenty-first year of their ages. Within six years from that date he had so firmly established himself in public confidence as a man of sound judgment, that his first appearance in the documentary history of the colony shows him acting as arbitrator in establishing the valuation of some disputed real estate in New Amsterdam. His native ability is also shown by the rapidity with which he rose from the calling of architect and

builder, in which official capacity he served the West India Company, to become the leading merchant of his day and the possessor of a large fortune. That his acquisition of wealth was not at the expense of the esteem of his fellow citizens is evident from his promotion to many public positions, including those of City Surveyor (1666) and Alderman (1674); and finally, when the Duke of York issued instructions to the newly appointed Governor Dongan in 1682, Philipse was so well known at court that Dongan was directed, on his arrival at New York, "to call together Fredericke Phillipps, Stephen Courland, and soe many more of the most eminent inhabitants of New Yorke, not exceeding tenn, to be of my Councill."

Philipse's first land-holding was acquired in New Amsterdam in 1658, when Director-General Stuyvesant, by authority of the Council, granted him a lot on the northeast corner of the Markveld (Market-field, now Whitehall street) and Brouwer straat (Brewer street, now Stone street). And to this he added other possessions within the wall which once extended across what is now Wall street. But it was not till 1672 that he acquired his first holding in what was destined to be the lordly Manor of Philipsborough. This purchase, made in partnership with Thomas Lewis and Thomas Delaval, included the region bordering on the Neperhan river which had been granted by the West India Company in 1646 to the learned Adriaen Van der Donck, and which, after his death in 1655, had been sold by his widow and her second husband to Elias Doughty of Flushing, L. I. There was already a thriving business going on at the mill-site near the mouth of the Neperhan, now included in the City of Yonkers; and Philipse found it so profitable that he bought out the interests of his partners and in 1686 became sole owner.

From this nucleus he gradually extended his ownership by purchase until, in 1685, his possessions extended from Croton river on the north (the southern boundary of the future Van Cortlandt Manor), to Lower or Little Yonkers on the south. When, in 1693, Philipse received by his Royal Charter a grant to a neck of land called Paparinemin at Spuyten Duyvil creek, and in January, 1694, bought from Matthias Buckhout the fifty acres called George's Point (now Van Cortlandt Park), his estate stretched continuously from Spuyten Duyvil creek to Croton river.

Philipse's charter erected this region into "a Lordship or Manor of Philipsborough in free and common socage according

to the tenure of our Manor in East Greenwich within our County of Kent in our realm of England, yielding, rendering and paying therefor, yearly and every year, on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at our fort at New York, unto us, our heirs and successors, the annual rent of £4 12s current money of our said Province."

The reference to the Royal Manor in East Greenwich, in Kent, signified the most liberal manorial tenure that the Crown could grant, and recalls the fact that when the Normans conquered England, the Saxon kingdom of Kent was the first to submit peaceably to the Conqueror, in recognition of which William confirmed the inhabitants in all their ancient laws and liberties. These privileges were so much more liberal than those of the rest of the kingdom that the common law of Kent was different from the common law of other parts of England. One of these privileges was "free socage tenure" as distinguished from feudal tenure by Knight's service, and therefore the customs and practices of the Royal Manor of East Greenwich were particularly adaptable to the conditions in America.

Philipse was also privileged to hold Court Leet and Court Baron within his domain; and, knowing, as we do, his fair-mindedness in the adjudication of public affairs, from the arbitration of real estate disputes to the settlement of inter-colonial boundaries, we may infer that his judgment within the local courts of his Manor were just and equitable.

Owing to the proximity of his demesne to the Island of Manhattan, from which it was separated by Spuyten Duyvil creek, Philipse acquired by his charter a privilege of unique value in his permission to erect a toll-bridge across the creek upon condition that it be called the King's Bridge. When it is remembered that this bridge was the chief, and for some years the only, means by which travellers from New York could pass to the mainland, or travellers from the mainland pass to the Island of Manhattan, except by ford or boat, it will be understood that this privilege was a lucrative source of income. Within the past decade, Spuyten Duyvil creek—that water-way around whose inexplicable name Washington Irving wove such a fanciful legend about the fate of Stuyvesant's trumpeter Corlear—has ceased to be; its channel has been filled up; and the King's Bridge has lost its identity in a solid roadway; but the name King's Bridge, first written in the charter of Philipse Manor, still applies to the locality and identifies it in the pages of history.

ADOLPHUS PHILIPSE. BORN 1665, DIED 1750

From Pellitreau's *History of Putnam County, N. Y.* By permission of the New York Public Library.

When the first Lord of the Manor died in 1702, he closed a career in which he may well have taken pride. Coming of good family stock and yet without the advantage of inherited wealth, he had won his fortune and estate by force of character and the applications of his talents to industry and commerce. He had served the Colony in positions of responsibility and trust. He had manifested physical courage in time of physical danger and moral courage when principles of liberty were involved even to the point of questioning the Royal power when it went beyond what he believed to be lawful limits. It is a curious contrast of fate that the first Lord of the Manor, who was contumacious of the King's authority, died in possession of his estate, while the third Lord lost his because of loyalty to the King.

Of this first period of the Manor we have three interesting monuments in the Manor Hall at Yonkers, the "Castle" on the Pocantico, and the Sleepy Hollow church. The first of these, through the generosity of the late Mrs. William F. Cochran, is now in possession of the State and the custody of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. The second is the home of Elsie Janis, the popular actress. And the third, situated in Sleepy Hollow cemetery, is still a place of religious worship. The exact dates of the erection of the Manor Hall and the Castle are not known, but there is reason to believe that the beginning of the house on the Neperhan antedates that of the house on the Pocantico. Frederick Philipse availed himself of the water power of both the Neperhan and the Pocantico to build mills near their confluence with the Hudson, and near each of these mill-sites stands one of these monumental buildings. The earliest documentary evidence referring to the Yonkers site shows that Van der Donck had erected a saw-mill and laid out a farm and plantation there prior to 1652. A law suit shows that there was a mill there in 1674 and that it had been there some years. And complaints from the Government of Connecticut show that in 1682–84 he was building a mill on the Pocantico in addition to the one on the Neperhan. Now it goes without saying that in those days, where there was a sufficient settlement or centre of activity to have a mill, there was need for a strong house for protection against the Indians. This is repeatedly attested in the history of the Hudson and Mohawk valleys where even to-day stand houses perforated with loop holes to shoot the

HONORABLE FREDERICK PHILIPSE, 2ND LORD OF THE MANOR.
BORN 1695. DIED 1751.
(Original in the possession of The New York Historical Society).

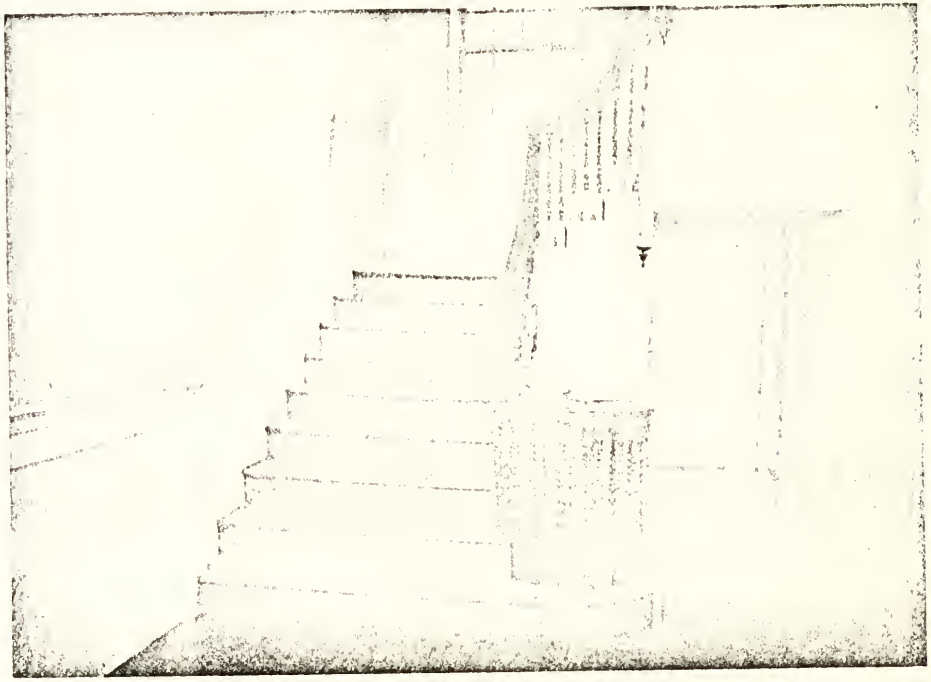
Indians.* The writer has no doubt but that there was a substantial house at Yonkers as early as 1652, certainly as early as 1674, and beyond the peradventure of a doubt in 1682, but how much of it remains in the present Manor Hall is largely a matter of conjecture, aided by study of the structure itself. Reflections upon the evidence of the building during the seven years which have elapsed since the publication of the writer's book entitled *Philipse Manor Hall at Yonkers, N. Y.*, leads him to the opinion that part of the foundation may antedate 1682; that part of the southern wing dates from about 1682–1694; and that the remainder and larger part dates from about 1725 or 1730, although the date 1745 is also given as that of the enlargement by the second Lord of the Manor. An interesting confirmation of the 1730 date comes to the writer as he is penning these lines from Mr. John Henry Livingston of "Clermont," who says that in the parlor fireplace in his residence is the counterpart of the English fire-back in Philipse Manor Hall, and he dates the erection of his house from 1730. It was probably about this time that the Manor Hall was enlarged.

There is no occasion for doubting that the date of 1683 attributed to Castle Philipse on the Pocantico is substantially correct—for a part if not all of the house; for documentary evidence shows that Philipse's upper-mill "over against Tappan" was erected at this time, and with it, no doubt, a substantial residence.

Concerning the date of the Sleepy Hollow church we have more certain testimony. Frederick Philipse died in 1702 and Mrs. Philipse in her will, refers to "the Dutch Church erected and built at Philipsburgh by my late husband, Frederick Philipse deceased." The old stone slab on the church which gives the date 1699 cannot be far, if at all, out of the way.

There was probably little luxury in the residences at Philipse's mills during the incumbency of the first Lord of the Manor, for in those pioneer days, surrounded by perils from Indians, there could be little approach to the comfort and ease of the old established English Manors, and the family made its chief residence in the City of New York. But with the advent of the second proprietor, the more settled condition of the country and greater security encouraged social life and gradually led to

* As random illustrations may be cited Van Cortlandt Manor house on the Croton, the Louis Dubois house in New Platz on the Walkill, Fort Crailo in Rensselaer on the Hudson, and Fort Frye on the Mohawk.



THE EAST HALL AND STAIRS
By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

the Manor Hall becoming the centre of more social activity. But time was required to bring about such a result.

When the first Lord of the Manor died in 1702, he divided up his extensive property in New York City, Westchester County, Rockland County, New Jersey and elsewhere between his widow, his three living children, Eva, Annetje and Adolphus, and his grandson Frederick. The latter's share included the Yonkers plantation and other property. But the grandson Frederick, who became the second Lord of the Manor, was then a minor, having been born in 1695 and being only 7 years of age; so that the grandfather, by his will, entrusted the guardianship of the grandson and his estate to his widow, with the injunction that she give the boy "ye best education and learning these parts of ye world will afford." Mrs. Philipse did more than that. She took the boy to England where he was thoroughly educated in the law and acquired the best tradition of his day, and when he came of age in 1716 and entered upon his full privileges as Lord of the Manor, he began his career with the advantages of both inheritance and culture. Three years later he married Joanna, daughter of Lieut. Gov. Anthony Brockholls. By this distinguished alliance, the high social and political standing of the family was maintained.

The second Lord of the Manor had a social disposition, in which respect he differed from his grandfather, and as a consequence of this characteristic as well as his other personal qualities the Manor Hall took on quite a new atmosphere. The new master had a fertile mind; was a good conversationalist; was manly, courteous, generous and affable and altogether companionable. With these qualifications, he advanced rapidly in private and public esteem, as is evidenced from the briefest glance at some of the positions of public responsibility and trust which he occupied. For fourteen years, beginning in 1719, he was an Alderman of the City of New York, and during much of this same period was Member of Assembly of the Province from Westchester County and Highway Commissioner for the County. He took a conspicuous part in framing the Montgomerie charter of the City of New York (1730–31) which document, Chancellor Kent says, "is entitled to our respect and attachment for its venerable age and the numerous blessings and great commercial prosperity which have accompanied the due exercise of its powers." In 1733 he became Baron of the Exchequer, and also Second Judge of the Supreme Court, which latter position he held until his death in 1751. Because

of the latter fact he is usually distinguished by the title of Judge.

There is some uncertainty as to whether it was during the early period of his incumbency as Lord of the Manor, that is to say, about 1725–30, or whether it was in 1745, after he had attained his highest distinction, that he enlarged the Manor Hall. It is possible that improvements were made at both periods. At any rate, it was he who gave it its present dimensions, which make the building about thrice the size it was when he inherited it from his grandfather. By this change the eastern façade became the main front. Between it and the old Post Road stretched a velvety lawn with garden terraces and horse-chestnut trees. On either hand were laid out formal gardens and grounds, ornamented here and there with valuable trees, choice shrubs and beautiful flowers. Among these ran graveled walks, bordered with boxwood. To the westward of the building the greensward sloped to the Hudson river, adorned with fine specimens of trees among which were emparked a number of deer. And beyond the river could be seen the columned front of the Palisades. At the foot of the hill to the southward, on the banks of the Neperhan, stood the famous Philipse mills, with their three great over-shot wheels turned by the waters of the stream which was here dammed and harnessed to the service of man.

The interior of the house was elaborately finished and has been so carefully restored and conserved by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society that it may be described almost entirely in the present tense as a picture of what it was in the period of Judge Philipse.

In the middle of the south front, a double "Dutch" door gives entrance to a hall with broad winding staircase and mahogany rail. Doors on either side of the hall give access to parlors about 20 feet square and a door at the rear opens toward what was a rear porch. The right hand or east parlor, situated in the southeast corner of the building, commands principal attention, for its location, facing the Post Road in one direction and the mills in another; its accessibility from both the south hall and the east hall; and the lavish care bestowed upon its ornamentation unmistakably proclaim it to be the chief room of the Manor Hall. The carved woodwork of the mantelpiece and the fluted columns reaching from the floor to the moulding of the ceiling, the doors and the wainscoting are all in the finest kind of workmanship of the period. In the fireplace is

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Increased Cost of Getting Business by Mail

By Howard O. Rogers

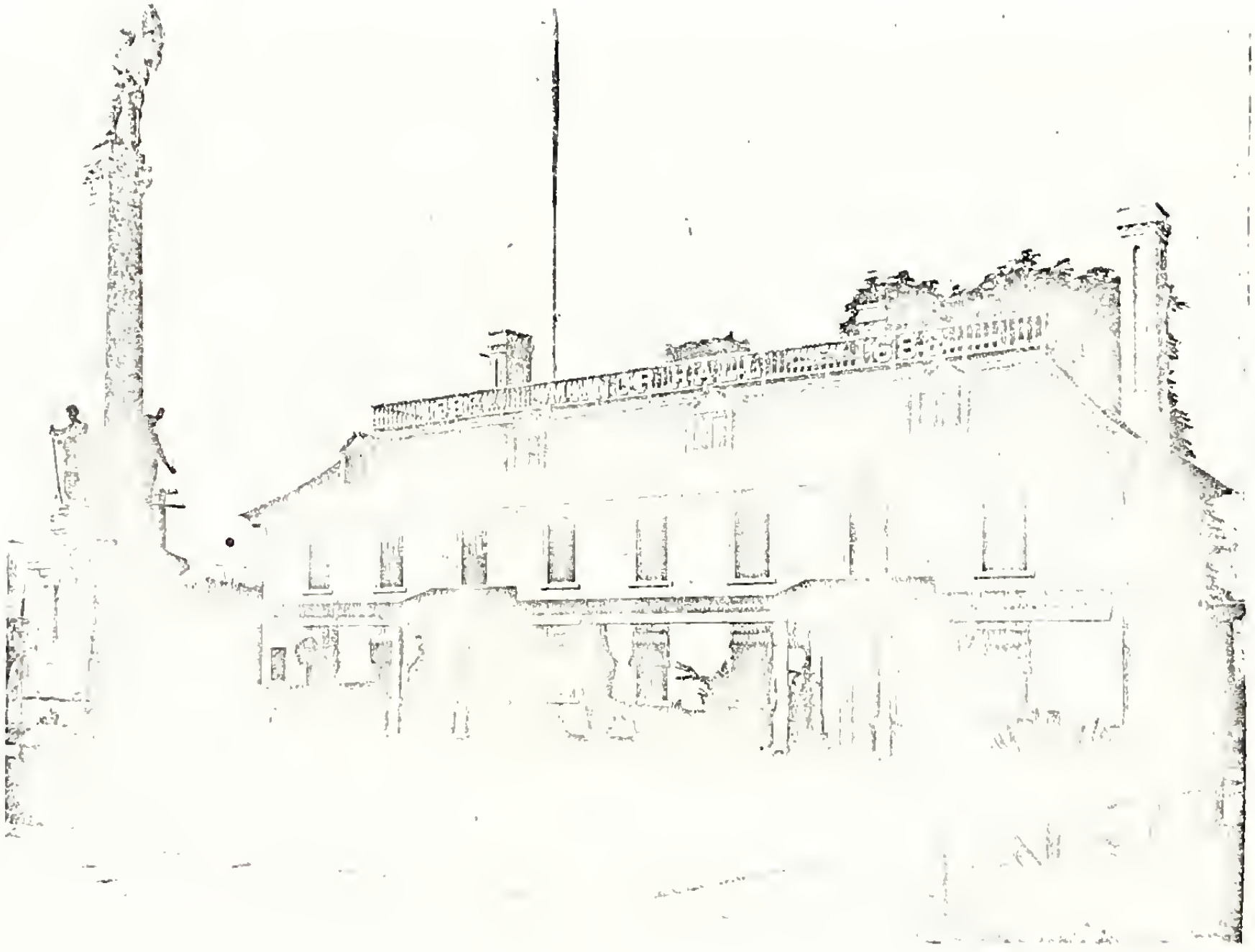
It is estimated that the new postal rates, effective April 15, 1925, have increased the cost of securing business through the mails by an average of seventy-five per cent over and above the cost of this method under the prior rates. This applies to business generally, but particularly to wholesale jobbers and retailers during these times when even under the old rates it was difficult enough for the retailer, especially in the rural districts, to maintain a sales volume.

The private one-cent post card and printed one-cent circular have long been the retailer's favorite mailing pieces for sales announcements and general business-getting. Thousands of retail merchants, especially those located in the smaller towns, have used the mails in this way to establish and preserve a contact with their rural patrons and prospects, and the wholesalers have used the mails as a valuable supplement to their sales force on the road. The rate on private post cards has doubled and the new rate on circulars has increased the cost of this way of doing business by fifty per cent. No other class of business has been hurt to this extent.

viding additional revenue for postal employes, selected the course of least resistance by attempting to make the least vocal element of business pay the freight.

The new rates are particularly unscientific and unjust in view of the facts developed by the Mail Cost Ascertainment Report called for by Congress and which was supposed to furnish a basis for a scientific and fair apportionment of rate increases to absorb the pay roll additions provided for. That report was before Congress at the time of the enactment of the new postal law and it cost in the neighborhood of five hundred thousand dollars. The report was an exhaustive and comprehensive analysis of facts and figures and its accuracy and reliability were certified to by outstanding reputable public accounting firms. Its preparation required months. It showed that first class mail, embracing the one-cent post card, was the only class that made the Government a profit, and that that profit for the period covered was eighty millions of dollars as against heavy losses of from seventy-four millions of dollars on newspapers down to three hundred fifty-seven thousand on franked mail. Congress seems to have paid no attention whatever to this report, for the rate on private mailing cards — then earning a part of the eighty millions of dollars profit — was arbitrarily increased one hundred per cent, constituting a burdensome tax or penalty on stimulating and holding business — that is to say, stifling business at its very source.

There seems to be little consistency in reducing Income Taxes on business profits and at the same time taxing and penalizing the creation of business. It is apparent that the rate-making feature of the new postal law is bad in this particular, at least. The law was enacted in a hurry and to fulfill a campaign



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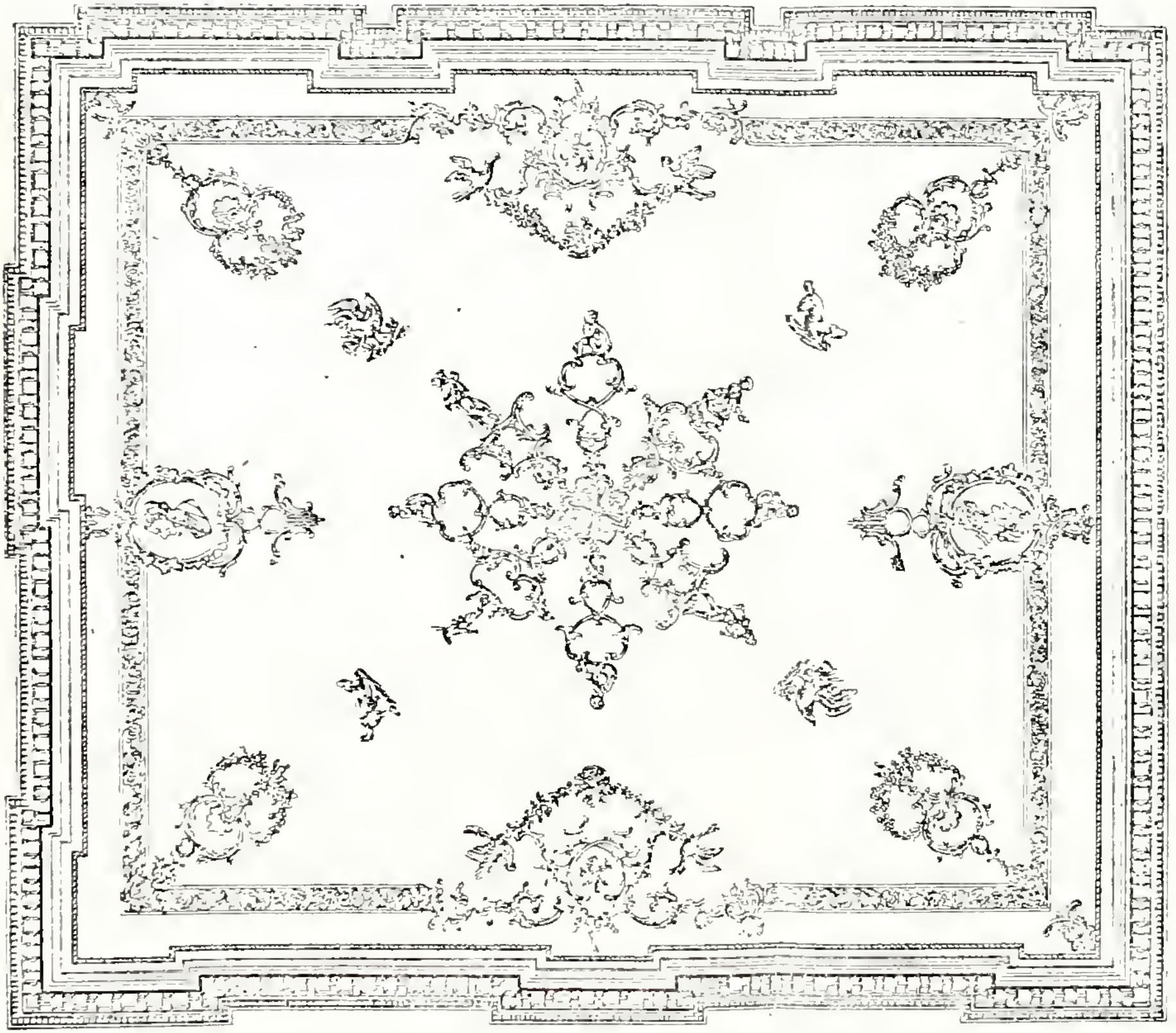
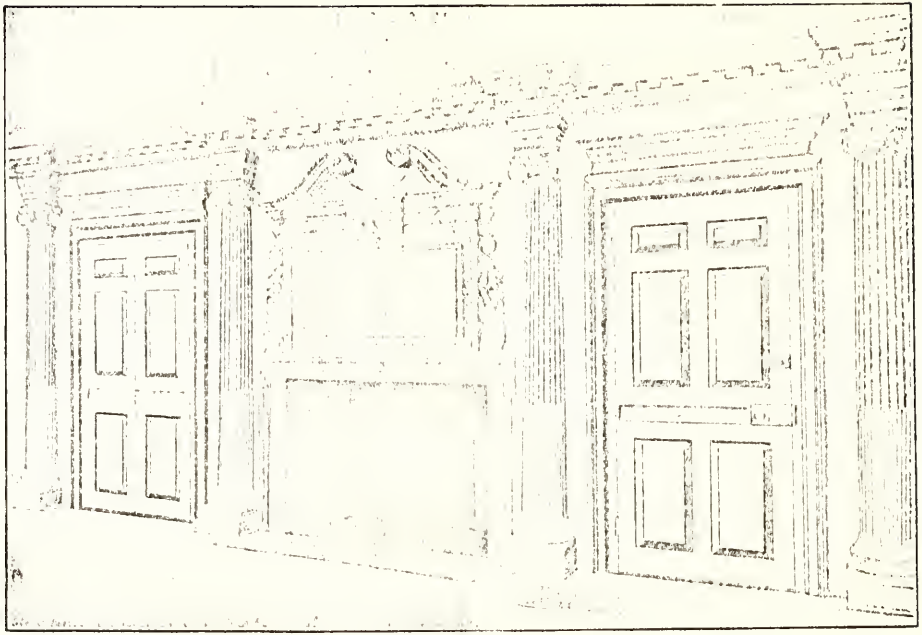
Phillipse Manor House, Yonkers, N. Y.
It was here that George Washington courted his first love, Mary Phillipse



DESIGN OF ENTIRE CEILING OF EAST PARLOR

By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*



INTERIOR OF EAST PARLOR

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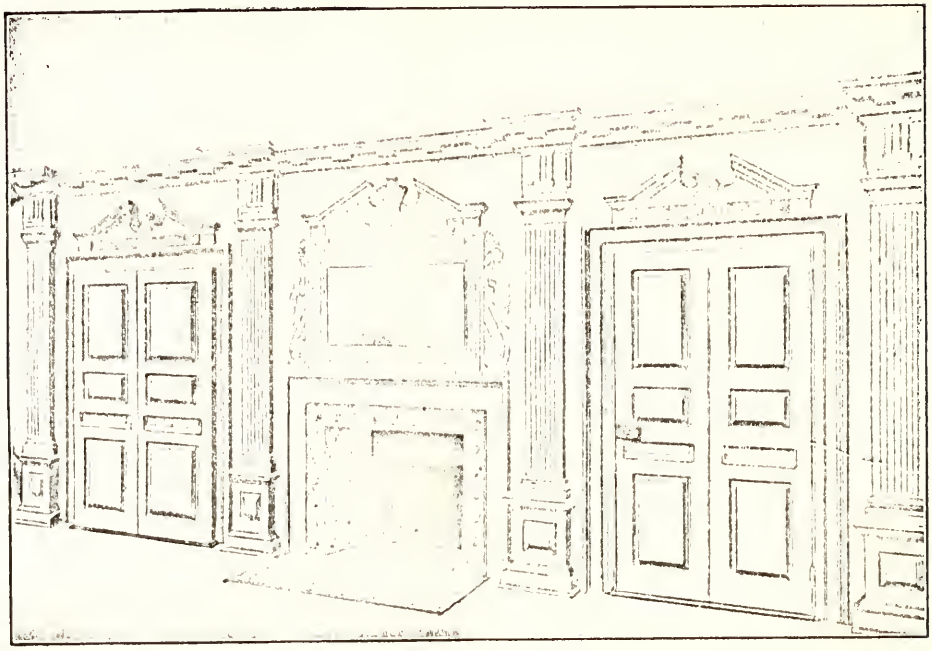

INTERIOR OF EAST CHAMBER

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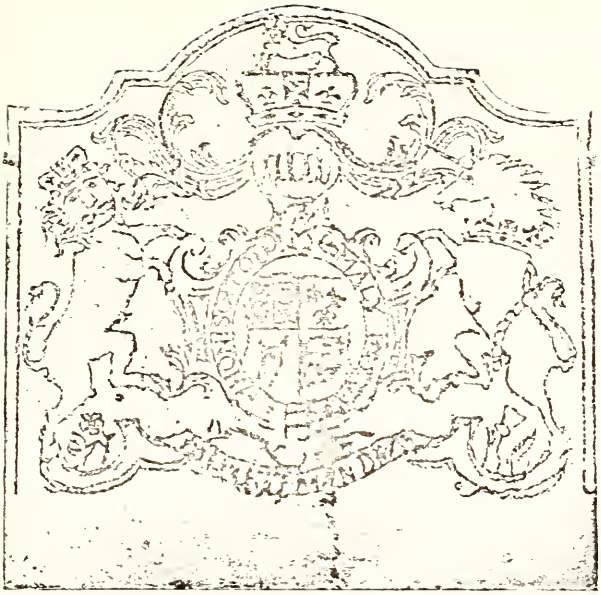


ENGLISH FIRE-BACK-GERMAN STOVE PLATE

By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

an iron fire-back referred to on a preceding page bearing the Royal coat-of-arms. The ceiling is ornamented with elaborate arabesque in relief. In this tracery one sees not only two portrait busts, probably representing the first and second Lords of the Manor, but also charming figures of dancing girls, musicians, hunters, dogs, birds, flowers, etc. In the north wing, across the east hall, are the dining room, and beyond that the space formerly occupied by the kitchen, pantry and rear stairway but now thrown into one large room.

Ascending the stairway of the east hall, guarded by a mahogany balustrade whose more ample whorl indicates the superior dignity of the east entrance, one comes to the second floor. Here, the elaboration of the chamber in the southeast corner, over the parlor before described, easily distinguishes it as the principal bedroom. The wooden mantelpiece is handsomely carved and displays the three plumes of the Prince of Wales, and the fluted pilasters give an air of elegance to the room. All the fireplaces in the two parlors and the two chambers of the south wing were originally lined with Dutch tiles, many of which have been preserved in place, supplemented by modern replicas to replace those which have been lost. In the fireplace in the west chamber is an old Dutch stove-plate upon which is a quaint representation of Elijah being fed by the ravens. A date upon the plate shows that it was cast in 1760. All the space on the second floor north of the upper east hallway was formerly divided by a central hallway, off from which opened bedrooms. This space was all thrown into one room for a Common Council chamber when the building was owned by the City of Yonkers, the roof being supported by new timber-work quite out of harmony with the style of the building.

In the attic, the slave quarters in the southern part still remain, while the space formerly occupied by similar accommodations in the north wing have been included in the enlargement of the Common Council chamber.

There are many details of the building, interesting architecturally and mysterious historically, which it is impossible to mention within the limits of this paper. Suffice it to say that modest as the mansion appears in comparison with the palatial residences of modern millionaires, or even with those of persons who are not millionaires, the Manor Hall was one of the most elegant homes of its period and a worthy place of entertainment for the distinguished visitors who enjoyed its hospitality.

MARGARET PHILIPSE. BORN 1733, DIED 1752

(Original in the possession of The New York Historical Society)

Nor was the hospitality of the second Lord of the Manor confined to the official and social dignitaries of the Colony, for he continued the curious old feudal customs of court and rent days, and on those occasions his tenants were feasted in right generous fashion. In 1749, Adolphus, his uncle, died, and Frederick thereby inherited the Upper Plantation, thus bringing the ancient domain under a single ownership again; and it was Frederick's custom to have two rent days for the Manor, one at Yonkers and one at Sleepy Hollow, on which occasions there were appropriate festivities as his tenants paid their rentals, ranging from two fat hens or a day's work upwards, according as their holdings were located far from or near to the river.

As might be expected of a family containing such charming daughters as those of Judge Philipse, the Manor Hall was not without its romances. One of these, during the period of which we have been speaking, concerned Susannah Philipse and Beverly Robinson. The latter came of a distinguished Virginian family, being the son of John Robinson who was President of the Colony of Virginia upon the retirement of Governor Gooch in 1734. He was a resident of New York City and paid his devoirs to the 23-year old Susannah in either the town-house or Manor Hall of the Philipse family as the exigencies of residence required, and their marriage about the year 1750 was one of the social events of the day.

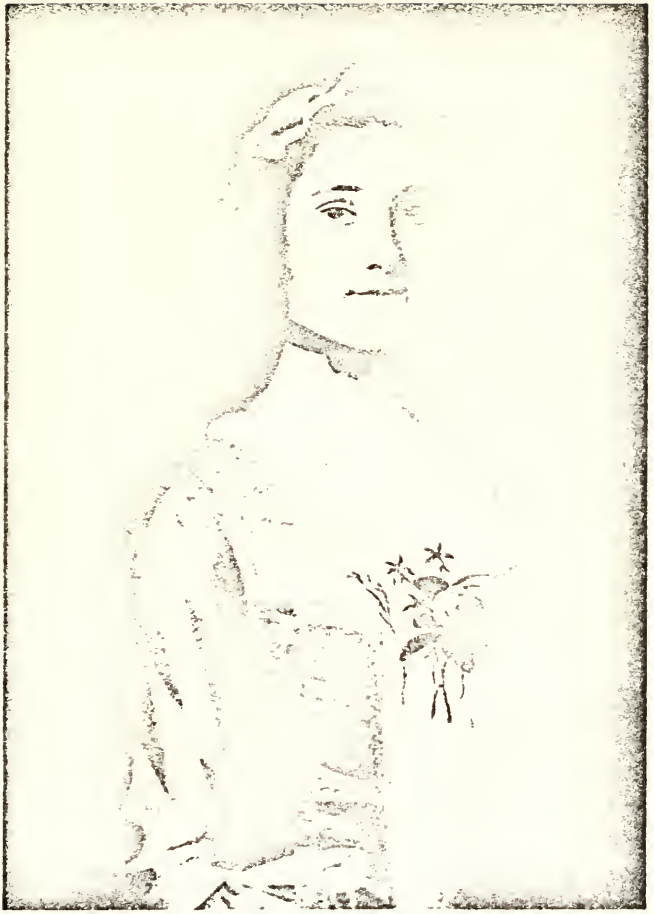
Thus, to understand the life of the Manor at the height of its glory, which was during the quarter century running from near the end of the second Lord's tenure into and comprising most of the third Lord's, we must imagine first this stately mansion, situated, like some of the Manor Halls of Old England, on a great thoroughfare—in the present case on the Post Road from New York to Albany. In the domestic régime there was distinct recognition of the difference between the positions of master and mistress on the one hand and the 30 white servants and 20 slaves on the other. On state occasions, the master of the house and host and his gentlemen guests dressed in the picturesque attire of the period, with colored coats and ruffled shirts, knee-breeches and silk stockings, and shoes with silver buckles; while the mistress and guests of her sex made choice between their red silver-laid petticoats, and their red cloth petticoats, and their silk quilted petticoats, and other gorgeous apparel, not forgetting to display glimpses of natural beauty through the mists of delicate lace filling the

SUSANNAH PHILIPSE, WIFE OF BEVERLY ROBINSON
BORN 1727, DIED 1822
(Original in the possession of The New York Historical Society).

openings of their satin corsages, to adorn their bosoms with a cluster of flowers, to heighten their complexions by little figures of court plaster and other artistic means, and to powder their carefully arranged coiffures with snows the reality of which was belied by the summer roses on the cheeks below. Then there was the daily routine of attending to the milling business, with its incoming and outgoing traffic by pack horse over the highways or by sloops out of the Neperhan and along the Hudson. There were the post-riders and occasional travellers on horseback, and once in a while a stage coach, plodding slowly up and down the great highway where now automobiles speed by faster than the wind. Frequently, pilgrims stopped at the Manor Hall to inquire concerning the proximity of New York on the one side or the nearest stopping place on the other. Out on the river, sailing vessels plied up and down between Albany and New York, and occasionally might be seen Indians in their canoes en route for a conference at the fort in New York or on some less important errand, but the day of the stately steamboat or the noisy motor-boat had not yet arrived. At rare intervals there were alarms of danger from the Indians and their allies the French, and a bustle of military activity as when, in 1746, detachments from Queens and Westchester counties embarked in Neperhan harbor bound for the north. Occasionally a hunting party would set forth, to return at the end of the day with the trophies of deer or other game. Then, as we have said, there were the rent days, and the court days, when the tenantry gathered together and not only paid their obligations to the proprietor of the Manor but feasted and frolicked, had their folk dances, sang the quaint old songs of Merry England or, perchance, those of the land of St. Nicholas, and interchanged the latest news and gossip of the days when newspapers were a rarity not enjoyed by their class.

But there were days of sorrow, too, for the Manor, and never was there more sincere grief than when the second Lord passed away in 1751 in the fifty-sixth year of his age, remembered for "his Indulgence and Tenderness to his tenants, his more than parental affection for his Children, and his incessant liberality to the Indigent" which "surpassed the splendor of his Estate and procured him a more unfeigned regard than can be purchased with opulence or gained by Interest."*

* New York *Gazette*, July 29, 1751.



MARY PHILIPSE BEFORE MARRIAGE. BORN 1730, DIED 1825
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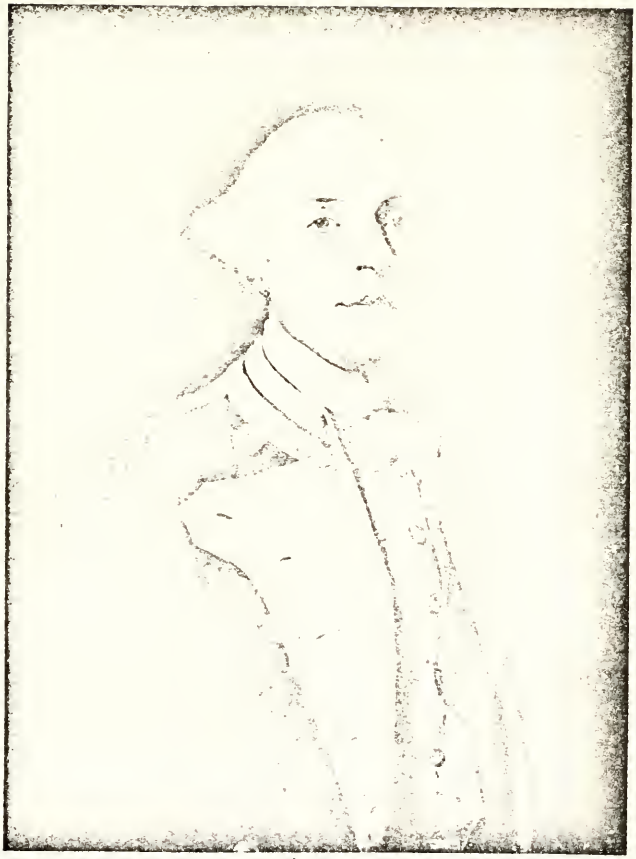


COLONEL ROGER MORRIS BY WEST. BORN 1727, DIED 1794
By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

MRS. ROGER MORRIS (NÉE MARY PHILIPSE) BY COPLEY
By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

The third and last period of Philipse Manor began in its Golden Age as a Manor and ended in tragedy.

Frederick Philipse, son of the second Lord, was thirty-one years of age when he succeeded his father as Lord of the Manor. He was a graduate of King's College (now Columbia University) and his tastes were literary. He mingled little in public life, but was a member of the Colonial Assembly and held a commission as Colonel of Militia. He was generally known as Colonel Philipse. He was an Episcopalian in his religious affiliations and as generous as he was ardent in the affairs of his denomination. He and his family erected the old stone church of St. John's in Yonkers which dates from 1752, and gave about 250 acres of arable land for a glebe and built a rectory upon it. His quiet tastes found agreeable indulgence in the enjoyment of the best books of his day and the practice of his favorite art of landscape gardening. The latter was one of the fashionable occupations of a landed gentleman of the period, as was exemplified by Washington's formal garden at Mount Vernon. As Lord of the Manor he usually presided in person in the Court Leet and Court Baron, dispensing justice in civil and criminal matters according to feudal custom, and even, it is said, administered capital punishment.

The Lady of the Manor, whom Colonel Philipse espoused in 1756, was born Elizabeth Williams, and was then the twenty-four-year-old widow of Anthony Rutgers. She was "a handsome and pleasing woman" according to John Jay, and "an excellent woman" according to Dr. Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College. She had a vivacious and even dashing character, being an expert horsewoman who drove four spirited black horses with a fearlessness that excited the wonder of the countryside. She is also credited with being an imperious woman of fashion and fond of display.

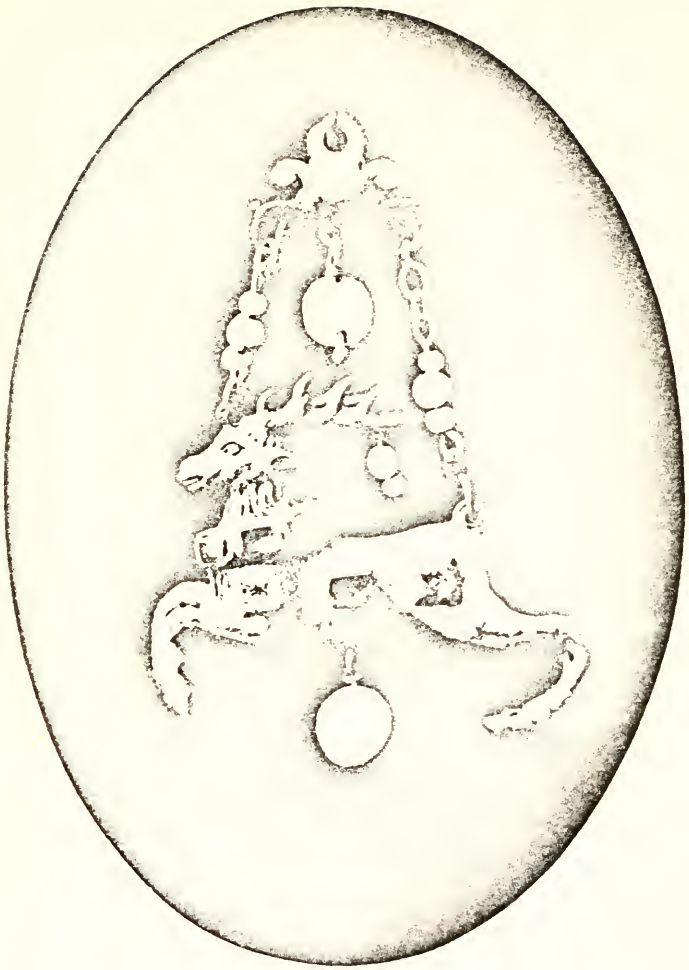
Under their auspices, the Manor maintained its best social traditions. The principal people of the Colony were entertained at the Manor Hall, and the internal affairs of the household and of the Manor continued according to the ancient customs. If the French and Indian War brought some alarm to households lying beyond the new line of palisades which was erected across Manhattan Island about on the line of the present Chambers street, it also brought events of more romantic and pleasing nature involving Frederick Philipse's sister Mary, who was esteemed one of the most beautiful and accomplished young women of the Colony.

COLONEL FREDERICK PHILIPSE, 3RD LORD OF THE MANOR
BORN 1720, DIED 1786

(Original in the possession of The New York Historical Society)

The well-established romance of Mary Philipse and George Washington does not fail to suggest speculation on what a different fate might have befallen the Manor had their attachment resulted in marriage. It was in 1756, during the opening years of the French and Indian War, that Washington met Miss Philipse. He had been despatched from Virginia on a military errand to the commander-in-chief General Shirley in Boston, and while en route was entertained in New York by Colonel Beverly Robinson, whom he knew intimately as a schoolmate in Virginia. Here he met Mrs. Robinson's sister Mary. Both the historian Sparks in his *Life of Washington*, and Washington Irving in his biography of his namesake, attest the reality of Washington's attachment for the charming "Polly," as she was nick-named; but we do not have to rely on the second hand testimony of the historians, for we have the original letters of Washington's friend and confidant, Joseph Chew of New London, Conn., written to Washington under dates of March 14 and July 13, 1757, adverting to Washington's "sincere regard" for "pretty Miss Polly," and pleasantly upbraiding him for his too great absorption in his duties in Virginia while Roger Morris was capturing the works in New York in his absence." Mr. Chew's apprehensions were well-gounded, and Mary Philipse capitulated to the gallant Captain Morris who, like Washington, had been an aid-de-camp on Braddock's staff and who later became Major and then Lieutenant Colonel in the operations against the French at Louisbourg, Quebec and Montreal.

Captain Morris and Miss Philipse were married in the Manor Hall in the midst of a distinguished company on January 19, 1758. There probably never was a more brilliant scene of festivity in the Manor Hall or probably any other Colonial mansion of the period than the wedding of Mary Philipse. There was good sleighing and the weather was mild, facilitating the presence of guests of high and low degree, for the humbler folk were feasted as well as their betters on this great occasion. And so they came with jingling bells and merry shouts to the Manor House, and all was bustling activity and delightful vivacity when, at 3 p.m., the Rev. Henry Barclay, rector of Trinity Church, with his assistant, Mr. Auchmuty, arrived to perform the ceremony. The ladies and gentlemen were dressed in the height of the fashions of the period, the Lord of the Manor being superbly appareled and wearing the gold chain and jeweled badge of the ancestral office of Keeper of the Deer



THE "PHILIPSE BADGE OF THE GOLDEN STAG." HEREDITARY JEWEL OF THE ANCESTRAL OFFICE OF THE KEEPER OF DEER FORESTS OF BOHEMIA, WORN BY FREDERICK PHILIPSE AT THE WEDDING OF HIS SISTER MARY TO ROGER MORRIS IN PHILIPSE MANOR HOUSE, YONKERS, N. Y., JANUARY 19, 1758.

(*In possession of John Morris Robinson of St. John, N. B.*)

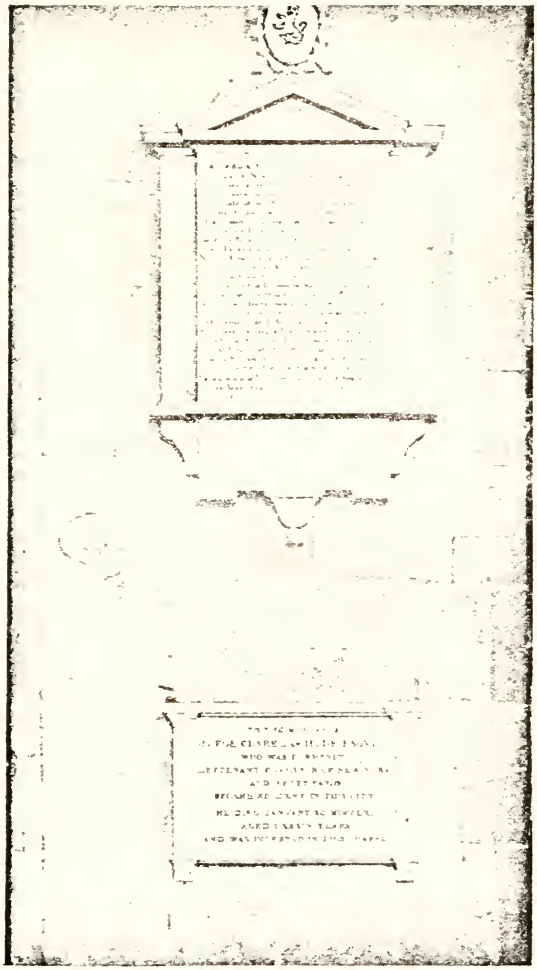
By permission of the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society

In a conspicuous place on the south face of the great pier of the south-west support of the tower of the cathedral in Chester, England, is a tablet to the memory of Frederick Philipse, reading as follows:

INSCRIPTION ON TABLET SHOWN ON PAGE 33

Sacred to the Memory of
FREDERICK PHILIPSE, eſquire, late of the
Province of New York: a Gentleman, in whom
the various ſocial, domeſtic and religious
Virtues were eminently united. The uniform
Rectitude of his Conduct commanded the
Eſteem of others; whilſt the Benevolence of his
Heart, and gentleneſs of his Manners ſecured
their Love. Firmly attached to his Sovereign
and the Britiſh Conſtitution, he oppoſed, at
the Hazard of his life, the late Rebellion in
North America; and for this faithful Diſcharge
of his Duty to his King and Country, he was
Proſcribed, and his eſtate, one of the largeſt in
New york, was Confiſcated, by the uſurped Legiſlature
of that Province. When the Britiſh Troops were
withdrawn from New York in 1783, he quitted
a Province to which he had always been an
Ornament and Benefactor, and came to
England, leaving all his Property behind him
Which Reverſe of Fortune he bore with
that Calmneſs, Fortitude and Dignity
which had diſtinguiſhed him through
every former Stage of Life.
He was born at New York the 12th: Day of September,
in the Year 1720: and died in this place the 30th:
Day of April, in the Year 1785*, aged 65 years.

* The correct date should be 1786.



PHILIPSE AND HYDE TABLETS IN CHESTER CATHEDRAL
By permission of the Author of *Philipse Manor Hall*

Forests of Bohemia.* The Misses Barclay, Van Cortlandt and Delancey attended the bride, while Captain Kennedy, Mr. Heathcote and Mr. Watts accompanied the bridegroom, as the happy couple took their place beneath a crimson canopy emblazoned with the golden crest of the family—a crowned demi-lion issuing from a coronet—and were joined in wedlock according to the form of the Church of England.

Their honeymoon, however, was cut short by Captain Morris' despatch to Louisbourg, but after his return from the war, he took his young wife to the fine Colonial house which he built for her on what is now 160th street, New York City, and which they continued to occupy until the unhappy days of 1776.

Colonel Philipse's convictions led him to espouse the cause of the Crown in the War for Independence, and on June 29, 1776, he was served with a summons to appear before the committee on disaffected persons to define his position. He sent an evasive reply by letter, and was left unmolested until on August 9, by Washington's order, he was taken into custody. He was then taken to Connecticut and detained there under parole. In December, 1776, he was permitted to return to the Manor House upon giving his parole not to give aid or intelligence to the enemy; but in the following year he left the Manor House in charge of his steward, went to his town house in New York, which was then in possession of the British, and never returned. He was therefore adjudged to have broken his parole, and coming under the act of attainder, his property was confiscated and thus the dissolution of the Manor was effected.

A volume might be filled with the events which occurred during the Revolutionary War within the bounds of Philipse Manor, for this was peculiarly the No Man's Land of that day—the Debatable Ground, overrun by the troops of both sides alternately, and, when not in possession of the disciplined soldiery, subject to the illicit depredation of the "Skinners" and the "Cowboys." Many a brave deed was performed in those trying days upon the large acres of the Manor, and many an eminent personage found shelter under the roof of the old Manor Hall.

* This badge was in possession of Mr. John Morris Robinson of St. John, N. B., in 1912, when the writer secured a photograph of it which is reproduced in the Annual Report of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society for 1913.

After the war, the estate was sold by the Commissioners of Forfeitures, and it was gradually broken up into many small holdings. The Manor Hall, with the acre upon which it stands passed through various intermediate owners until in 1868 it was acquired by the village of Yonkers. In 1908, as before stated, Mrs. William F. Cochran gave $50,000 for the purchase of the property and it was conveyed to the State of New York upon condition that it should be preserved and maintained forever as an historical monument and for historical and patriotic uses, and also that it should be in the custody of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

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